

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims in order to reduce the initial filing fee by deleting the multiple dependent claims from the application. Applicants retain the right to reintroduce any subject matter canceled by the present Amendment at any time during the prosecution of this application or any further application claiming benefit of this application.

Applicants have amended the application to substitute the originally filed pages 10 and 43-45 with the amended pages 10 and 43-45 attached to the International Preliminary Examiner Report (Annexes). Also, an Abstract of the Disclosure has been added to the application.


Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the Search Report which issued on International Application No. PCT/GB99/03813, of which the present application is the U.S. national phase. All of the publications cited in the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is Applicants' understanding that, under the procedures of the PCT, copies of the cited publications will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office by the International Bureau. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if additional copies are necessary or would facilitate examination of the present application.

Otherwise, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed and dated copy of the attached Form PTO-1449 to confirm that all publications listed thereon have been considered and made officially of record in the file of this application.

Applicants understand that, under the procedures of the PCT, a copy of the priority document (GB 9825096.2, filed 16 November 1998) will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office pursuant to Rule 17 of the PCT Regulations. It is therefore respectfully requested that the first Official Action in the present application contain an indication that the appropriate priority document is in the file of this application.

In view of the above amendments, an early action on the application is now in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Marked-Up Version Showing Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

4(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 2, wherein said host cells are harvested from said host organism at a stage when there is no direct prediction, suggestion or suspicion that said disease or disorder may develop.

5(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 2, wherein said host organism is a human.

6(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 2, wherein said host organism is juvenile, adolescent or adult, at the same time the cells are obtained.

7(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 2, wherein the immune system of said host organism is mature, at the time the cells are obtained.

8(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 2, wherein the immune system of said host organism is uncompromised, at the time the cells are obtained.

9(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 2, wherein said lymphocyte cells are T-lymphocyte cells.

10(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 3, wherein said therapy is therapy of a chronic condition.

11(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 2, wherein said therapy is cancer therapy.

12(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 2, wherein said therapy is for HIV infection or AIDS.

14(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 13] claim 2, wherein said host cell population is maintained in a state of dormancy.

15(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 14] claim 2, wherein said host cell population comprises a genetically modified cell.

16(Amended). A [use,] method [or composition] as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 15] claim 2, wherein, after removal from the host and before transplantation, said host cell population is stored by freezing the cells.

19(Amended). A method as claimed in claim 17 [or claim 18] wherein said lymphocyte cells are T-lymphocyte cells.

20(Amended). A dormant lymphocyte cell population obtained by the method of [any one of claims 17 to 19] claim 17.